

QUESTIONNAIRE

Part One¹

1. To begin with, it is important to mention that the most significant changes in legislation in the area of equality between men and women occurred after 1974 and prior to 1993. Therefore, one can say that most of the demands made by the Platform for Action in legal area were already fulfilled by Portuguese law.

On the other hand, some situations described in the Platform do not occur in Portugal, such as female genital mutilation or different regulations governing land rights for men and women, for instance.

For the same kind of reasons, one can say that there are not any new (after 1995) obstacles to the implementation of the principle of equality between men and women. As a matter of fact, the obstacles are the same: the slow change of mentalities, the lack of social structures allowing the reconciliation of private and professional life, etc.. Therefore, what can be said is that those obstacles have not disappeared yet, at least in a significant way.

Anyhow, the concern about questions of equality and improvement of women situation has been progressively looked at in terms of a democratic request and involving a dimension that is all together more global and systematic.

One might even say that, since the beginning of the decade of the 90's, a qualitative change in the way these questions are looked at has been registered, considering them under a perspective of protection and promotion of the human rights.

Basic matters related to the situation of women - their access to public and political life, their situation in the employment market, the feminization of poverty, the questions of violence, domestic or in the public places - all these aspects were, and are, looked at as reflections of women's access to the enjoyment of fundamental rights.

In spite of all this, and bearing in mind this conscience that is being developed and that is finding translation at political level, the *de facto* situation is not always in agreement with these principles. And if in many issues there are signs of change, there is also a visible resistance to change in others.

¹ Two Documents are included that complete the information contained in report: " Portugal-Status of Women 1997" and " Global Plan for Equal Opportunities"

Overview of trends in achieving gender equality and women's advancement

In 1996, Decree Law number 3-B/96, of January 26th, 1996 created the **High Commissioner for Equality and the Family**. In the preamble of the diploma it is stated that in the Program of Government, the correction of the inequalities between women and men deserves particular attention, as the equality principle stated in the Constitution and in the law is not, in itself, enough to ensure the equality of opportunities, or a more equitable participation in the areas of employment, and of political, economical and social power. The right to equality, therefore, demands a set of compensation actions, aiming at the correction of serious unbalances.

The high Commissioner's task is:

- To contribute for the effective equality of women and men at both social and family levels, proposing compensating policies to eliminate discrimination.
- To promote and value the family institution, developing a family policy, that takes into consideration the specific situation of its members.
- To contribute in order that all citizens enjoy the same dignity and equal opportunities and rights, by promoting initiatives that gradually eliminate discriminations.
- To accompany the children's situation, by promoting the co-ordination of the intervention of public institutions, and accompanying the action of non governmental organisations, as well as by supporting the formulation and execution of policies that involve children's issues.

The Agreement on Strategic Concertation 1996-1999 also predicts the principle of equal opportunities as an objective to achieve, that is binding both for the Government and the Social Partners.

In 1997 and **for the first time**, a **Global Plan for Equal Opportunities** was approved, on March 6th, by Resolution of the Council of Ministers n° 49/97, with 7 objectives:

1. To mainstream the principle of equal opportunities for men and women in all economic, social and cultural policies.
2. To prevent violence and guarantee proper protection to those women who are victims of crimes of violence.
3. Promotion of equal opportunities in employment and in labour relations.
4. Reconciliation of private and professional life.
5. Social protection of the family and of maternity.
6. Health.
7. Education, science and culture.

The 1976 Portuguese Constitution was revised by Constitutional Law no 1/97 of 20th September.

Since its 1st version, the constitutional text² establishes (and keeps on establishing) a (very strong) principle of non discrimination based on ascendancy, **sex**, race, language, provenance territory, religion, political or ideological convictions, instruction, economical situation or social condition. That principle is expressly foreseen concerning workers' rights³ and a principle of equality between spouses within marriage is also foreseen⁴.

Directly regarding the principle of equality between women and men, Constitutional Law no 1/97 of 20th September produced a new § [h)] of article 9th (*State's essential tasks*) which considers promotion of equality between men and women as a task of the State and also a new version of article 109th⁵ (*Citizens' political participation*) which states that the direct and active participation of men and women in political life is a condition and an essential instrument of the consolidation of the democratic system, and that the law must promote equality in the exercise of civic and political rights and non discrimination based on sex in the access to political offices⁶.

Some other changes brought by Constitutional Law no 1/97 of 20th September may be mentioned:

- article 26th (*Other personal rights*) guarantees legal protection against any form of discrimination, as long as it recognizes to everyone the rights to personal identity, to personality development, to civil capacity, to citizenship, to reputation, to image, to speech and to family and personal life privacy⁷.

² Article 13th (*Equality principle*).

³ Article 58th, no 1 (Right to work) says State must promote equality of opportunity in the choice of occupation or type of work and conditions preventing access to any post, work or professional category being prohibited or restricted by reason of a person's sex.

Article 59th, no 1 a) (*Workers' rights*) settles a workers' right (without distinction of age, **sex**, race, citizenship, provenance territory, religion, political or ideological convictions) to retribution, according to quantity, nature and quality and the obedience of the principle of equal salary for equal work, in a way to assure a suitable existence, taking the State upon itself the task of assuring a special protection of women's work during pregnancy and childbirth [article 59th, no 2 c)]

⁴ Article 36th, no 3 (*Family, marriage and affiliation*) says that spouses have equal rights and duties as far as civil and political capacity and children's upbringing are concerned.

⁵ Previous article 112th.

⁶ Before the change, the article settled that citizens' direct and active participation in political life was condition and essential instrument of the democratic system consolidation.

⁷ Before the change, the article referred only to personal identity, to civil capacity, to citizenship, to reputation, to image, to speak and to family and personal life privacy

- article 40th (*Rights to broadcasting, answer and political reply*) recognizes those rights to social organizations with national level⁸.
- article 59th, no 1 b) (*Workers' rights*) foresees a right to labour organization according to socially dignified conditions in order to allow self achievement and reconciliation between labour responsibilities and family life⁹.
- article 67, no 2 d) (*Family*) guarantees the right to family planning, respecting individual freedom¹⁰. It also foresees the organization of the legal and technical structures in order to allow a conscious maternity and paternity¹¹.
- article 68, no 4 (*Paternity and maternity*) says the law foresees the attribution to mothers and fathers of rights to time off from work for suitable periods, according to the child's interests and the family needs.

The 1998 National Plan for Employment, under its Pillar IV, foresees a policy of equal opportunities and presents a perspective of mainstreaming in the other 3 pillars. Pillar IV has 4 goals:

- to combat discrimination between men and women in order to reduce the gap between female and male unemployment rate and to increase female employment rate, specially in areas where they are under-represented;
- to reconcile private and professional life, increasing the access to care services;
- to favour the reintegration into active life of long-term unemployed, detecting and removing the obstacles to that reintegration ;
- to favour the insertion into active life of disabled persons, paying special attention to the difficulties they may find;

Reading the list above, one can say that the concept of equal opportunities has gradually entered most domains of political concerns and Government actions.

⁸ Before the change, the article referred only to political parties, trade unions and professional or economic activities organizations.

⁹ Before the change, the article didn't refer to conciliation between labour responsibilities and family life.

¹⁰ Before the change, the article mentioned the propagation of family planning methods by the necessary means.

¹¹ Before the change, the article only referred to conscious paternity.

Part Two

2. Financial and institutional measures

The percentage of the budgets of the Commission for Equality and for Women's Rights and Commission for Equality in Work and Employment (Governmental mechanisms for equality), of the overall national budget is, respectively, 0.0037% and 0.002%, in 1999.

However, the increase in those budgets has been:

Years	Increase in % (1995=100)	
	CEWR	CEWE
1995	100	100
1996	113	116
1997	135	149
1998	155	88
1999	166	155

3.a - Mechanisms in charge of the follow-up and implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action are:

- the High Commissioner for Equality and the Family, directly under the Prime Minister, that is the political structure to co-ordinate the Global Plan for Equality, that reflects the government policy in this area.

- The Commission for Equality and for Women's Rights that is the technical structure to promote activities and programs in the area of equality.

This Commission has, as one of its bodies, a Consultative Council that is composed of two sections: an Interministerial Section composed of Equality Counsellors of different Ministries who are particularly entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out actions in their own areas; a Section of non governmental organisations with consultative functions regarding equality policies.

- The Commission for Equality in Work and Employment, a tripartite commission with social partners, entrusted with responsibilities in this specific area, including analysis of complaints for discrimination on the grounds of sex.

b. - Co-ordination of the follow-up to World Conferences has taken the form of Ad-hoc groups in the framework of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that invites all the departments involved in the respective fields of action.

c. - Non-governmental organisations have an institutionalised forum of participation regarding equality matters and women's issues. It is the NGO section of the

Consultative Council of the Commission for Equality and Women's rights that gathers more than 40 national organisations and meets regularly. It is chaired by the president of the Commission, which means that a two way channel is established to allow for dialogue between governmental institutions and civil society.

Part Three

See Annex I

ANNEX 1

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN I. WOMEN AND POVERTY	
Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform¹²	<p>Law number 19-A/96, of June 9th regulated by Decree Law number 196/97 of July 31st, established the first normative framework intended to rule the right to a minimum allowance.</p> <p>In spite of this right having a quite generic application, the number of women benefiting from it is quite significant, as it amounts to about 67% of the total. A large number of these are heads of one-parent family.</p>
Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	
Commitment to further action/new initiatives	
Other	

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN II. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN	
Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform	<p>The Global Plan for Equal Opportunities foresees under Objective 1</p> <p>3.To promote the inclusion of matters related to gender and equal opportunities in school curricula, as well as in teacher initial and on-going training and of other education professionals, including that of trainers of the training system integrated in the employment market.</p> <p>under Objective 3</p> <p>5. To encourage enterprises to adopt measures of positive action, such as the access of young women to practical training, by means of a probation period to facilitate professional integration.</p> <p>9. To encourage the participation of women in professional training and increase their possibility of being requalified and of having access to new professional spheres or where they are under-represented, as well as to leadership positions.</p> <p>under Objective 5</p> <p>3. To protect adolescent mothers in the sphere of assistance in health and the promotion of education, with the view of their not being excluded from the school system.</p> <p>Under Objective 7</p>

¹² Most of the actions described in this item may also be seen as commitments, as their execution is not completed.

	<p>1.To encourage and support adult education, with a view to reduce illiteracy and improve the educational level of the population in general and of the female population in particular.</p> <p>2.To promote, namely by means of the creation of prizes, the writing of school text-books and other pedagogical and cultural diffusion materials that may convey non-stereotyped feminine and masculine images.</p> <p>3.To encourage and support studies and initiatives that objectively value the importance of the historical contribution of women to Portuguese culture.</p> <p>4.To encourage that the school curricula give due attention to the complementary role of the two sexes in society and in the family, in order to overcome discrimination, namely in the traditional division of roles between women and men.</p> <p>5.To include, in the school curricula, modules on sex education, within the framework of the health education programs.</p> <p>6.To furnish non-stereotyped options of courses and professional careers, offering young students, as from the 9th year of compulsory schooling, counselling and information on all medium and higher courses and the respective professional outlets and promote short term probation periods in enterprises and in central, regional and local public administration departments.</p> <p>7.To encourage the entry of young women in the cultural, scientific and technological areas, by stimulating their participation in experimental teaching programs.</p> <p>8.To include the interdisciplinary area of gender relations in the programs that finance scientific and technological research.</p> <p>The Commission For Equality And Women’s Rights (CEWR)¹³ has been developing projects in the area of teacher initial and on-going training, as well as in the awareness raising regarding writing of school text-books and other pedagogical and cultural diffusion materials so that they may convey non-stereotyped feminine and masculine images.</p> <p>The most important ones after 1995 are: a transnational pilot-project “Equal opportunities and teachers’ initial training” (1995-97) and a transnational pilot-project “Coeducation: from the principle to the development of a practice” (1998-2000).</p>
Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	
Commitment to further action/new initiatives	
Other	

¹³ CEWR was set up by Decree-Law no 166/91 of 9th May 1991 and is presently under the authority of the High Commissioner for Equality and the Family. It is the umbrella government mechanism for equality. Its basic objectives are:

- ⇒ to promote equal opportunities, rights and dignity for women and men;
- ⇒ to promote effective co-responsibility of women and men in all aspects of family, professional, social, cultural, economic and political life;
- ⇒ to encourage society to regard maternity and paternity as of fundamental social importance and to accept the responsibilities resulting therefrom.

**CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN
III. WOMEN AND HEALTH**

<p>Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform</p>	<p>The Global Plan for Equal Opportunities foresees under Objective 6</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To include, in the national health survey, questions and indicators relative to family planning, with a view to monitoring the effects of this health policy. 2. To study measures to prevent adolescent pregnancy, in the context of sex education and of family planning, to be carried out in schools, in health centres and in hospitals. 3. To create conditions to ensure the dignity of the human person in the health and hospital services, namely by respecting the right to privacy and intimacy. 4. To accompany the implementation of the legislation pertaining to sex education, family planning and abortion, (Law 3/84 of March 24, 6/84 of May 11 and Decree-Law 48/95 of March 15) with regard the alternative mechanisms which concern the position of the conscientious objector. <p>In 1997, the time limits of legal abortion were extended from 16 to 24 weeks (when the foetus may suffer from incurable or severe disease or malformation, in the case of an unviable foetus, the abortion can be carried out at any stage) and from 12 to 16 weeks (when the pregnancy is the result of a crime against sexual freedom and self-determination).</p> <p>Also in 1997, a national net of genetic screening was settled.</p> <p>An agreement between Health Services and a NGO (for family planning¹⁴) was celebrated in order to create pedagogical and diffusion materials on sexual education for adolescents, parents and teachers.</p>
<p>Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned</p>	
<p>Commitment to further action/new initiatives</p>	
<p>Other</p>	

**CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN
IV. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

<p>Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform</p>	<p>The Global Plan for Equal Opportunities foresees under Objective 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To encourage public information campaigns, through the media, in order to change mentalities with regard the role of women in society, in accordance with the regulations pertaining to Decree-Law 84/96, of July 29, which defines the mode of co-ordination and distribution of State publicity. 2. To produce and distribute a guide on the rights of women who are the victims of violence. 3. To create centres to support women who are victims of violence, to receive them, give them shelter and counsel them and to promote close
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¹⁴ Associação para o Planeamento Familiar.

- cooperation namely between departments of the Ministry of Justice, local authorities and NGO.
4. To open a telephone line (SOS Service) with the support of the Ministry of Justice with a view to give quick information on matters that are put to it.
 5. To open adequate services to attend women who are victims of violence in the criminal police that are competent to receive claims of criminal actions.
 6. To create mechanisms to reduce the period of time between the presentation of the claim by the victim of the crime of domestic violence and the promotion, in due time, and when it is considered necessary, of an injunction order which will result in sending the aggressor away from the household, by order of the competent magistrate, in the terms of the law of proceedings.
 7. To promote, reinforce and enlarge the measures needed in order to attribute an adequate compensation to the victims of the crimes of domestic violence.
 8. To introduce in the professional training of police agents matters relating to the psychological and social effects of domestic violence on the victims and on the family structure.
 9. To encourage the taking of measures to repress the exploitation of prostitution and trafficking in women by means of closer cooperation between the Government and local authorities.
 10. To open centres for family mediation.

A centre for family mediation was opened in Lisbon in 1997.

The Penal Code was revised in 1998 and as regards the crime of spouse mistreatment it is possible now that anyone denounces the situation to police forces; some serious situations of sexual harassment are now punished with imprisonment penalties. Criminal complaints for sexual and assault crimes may be presented in coroner's services.

The injunction order which will result in sending the aggressor away from the household, by order of the competent magistrate, is foreseen in the terms of the law of proceedings, since 1998.

A national telephone line (SOS Service) is functioning since 1998 and guides on the rights of women who are the victims of violence are to be published and distributed soon, but telephonic legal information to women was already available (by CEWR).

Adequate services to attend women who are victims of violence in police forces are being implemented and complains of spouse mistreatment are treated separately.

Professional training of health professionals is being developed in order to allow them to detect situations of domestic violence and children sexual abuse.

Some NGOs¹⁵ work in the area of violence against women giving legal counselling and psychological support.

There are some shelters for women (victims of violence and single mothers).

Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

¹⁵ Associação das Mulheres contra a Violência and Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima.

Commitment to further action/new initiatives	
Other	

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN V. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT	
Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform	The granting of asylum to aliens and stateless persons under persecution or seriously threatened by persecution for reasons of defending democracy, social and national liberation, peace among peoples, liberty as well as the rights of individual men and women, is guaranteed by Portuguese Law. A permission of residence for 5 years may also be granted on humanitarian grounds to aliens and stateless persons prevented to return to their home countries because of armed conflicts or systematic offense of human rights. Refugees who are granted asylum and who have been the victims of torture, rape and other sexual or physical abuse have special attention and support by social security services.
Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	
Commitment to further action/new initiatives	
Other	

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN VI. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY	
Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform	<p>The Global Plan for Equal Opportunities foresees under Objective 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reinforce the control of the execution of the dispositions established in Decree-Laws 392/79 of September 20 and 426/88 of November 18 (Equal Rights in Work and Employment), by means of the Commission for Equality in Work and Employment and of the intervention of the Department for the Inspection of Labour Conditions. Specific training shall to this end be given to the inspectors. 2. To create, in the Commission for Equality in Work and Employment, an observatory to follow the question of equality in the instruments of the collective regulation of work, namely to detect and prevent direct and indirect discrimination and also to encourage the introduction of positive actions and of a new culture of equality in work environments, and to this effect promote the sensitisation of trade-union and employer negotiators. 3. To promote the diffusion in all departments of Public Administration of documents that contain proposals to ensure equal opportunities and create mechanisms to implement these and to control the execution of the proposed measures . 4. To ensure the compliance with the norms established in Decree-Law 440/91 of November 14, which regulates work carried out in the home or in accommodation belonging to the worker, by means of sensitisation campaigns directed at female workers who carry out this type of work. 5. To encourage enterprises to adopt measures of positive action, such as contracting long-term unemployed women over 40 years of age, the integration of women in new professional spheres where they are under-represented or the access of young women to practical training, by means of a probation period to facilitate professional integration. 6. To establish, in the context of Social Agreement, measures of positive action, when the instruments of the collective regulation of work are being negotiated. 7. To create the statute of woman farmer and of partner of men farmer, taking into consideration the specificity of the conditions of this activity, by means

of a compulsive replacement regime.

8. To stimulate the entrepreneurial capacity of women, by making available specific support of a financial and technical nature to their entrepreneurial initiatives and give wide publicity to these programs.
9. To encourage the participation of women in professional training and increase their possibility of being requalified and of having access to new professional spheres or where they are under-represented, as well as to leadership positions.
10. To promote the development of women's professional career, namely by means of the introduction, in the regulations relating to those programs financed by the European Social Fund, of financial priorities or majorations in the actions that pursue these objectives.

Law 105/97 of September 13th introduces the concept of indirect discrimination saying that it is considered as an indicium of discrimination namely a considerable disproportion between the rate of workers of one sex at the service of the employer and the rate of workers of that same sex existing in that activity sector. It also foresees the reversal of the charge of the proof in the judicial procedures related to discrimination in labour.

The 1998 National Plan for Employment foresees, under its Pillar IV, "Equality of opportunities" and has a perspective of mainstreaming in the other 3 pillars.

Several positive action measures related to employment, labour and training were promoted. Out of the group of positive **action measures** some that are worth mentioning are:

- A 20% supplementary pecuniary prize, under the incentives regime for hiring, for each position filled by women in professions or areas where they are under-represented;
- A 20% bonus of the subsidies, of the public support programs, given in the context of: the Local Employment Initiatives, the Conservation of the Cultural Patrimony, the Creation of Self-employment and the Creation of Self-employment for unemployed, whenever the joint stock belongs, at least in 50%, to the promoting parts, and these parts participate directly in the management of the enterprise,
- The exemption of the payment of the training fund for entities that integrate training/employment programs conducive to the integration of women in professions where they are under-represented;
- The consideration of the theme of equal opportunities, as a criteria for the selection of professional training projects to be jointly financed by the European Social Fund;
- The adoption of measures that bring about equality, in the context of the 2nd Quadro Comunitário Europeu de Apoio (Community Support Framework), some of them being commonly applied to all the operational interventions, namely, financial support to the enterprises that guarantee the participation of women in non traditional fields, merit prizes to enterprises that develop programs that contribute in an exemplary manner for equal opportunities and bonuses for training scholarships to be granted to workers that prove to have children or grown ups in their care and have to entrust them to others to be able to attend training actions.

	<p>A gender evaluation of some public programmes is obligatory, and equality of opportunities is considered as a selection criterion to grant financing to projects.</p> <p>Several Projects and specific actions directed to women were developed by the CEWR with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To inform and sensitise municipalities for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equal opportunity and for the decisive role that they must perform in implementing a global policy of Equal Opportunities; • the need to create “Espaços de Informação Mulheres” (Women Information Spaces) that contribute to the promotion of equal access to labour between women and men in the labour market, through granting support to women on their individual efforts of job searching, of training or of creating their own employment or of any other type of economical activity, as well as increasing the visibility of their participation in local development; • the effective practice of a policy of Equal Opportunities at the municipal level, - To produce and test methodologies, training contents, as well as instruments and informative and pedagogic material. - To develop the technical competencies of the people working in structures of support to women’s professional (re) - insertion aiming at the professionalisation of this function. - To increase the number of existing “Espaços de Informação Mulheres” (Women Information Spaces), to increase the quality of the service and of the actions developed as well as the strategies adopted by them, and ultimately create a national Net of such spaces. <p>Within these projects Conselheiras para a Igualdade (Counsellors for Equality) have been trained under Protocols established between the projects and several municipalities aiming at the integration of the dimension of equal opportunities in the policies and actions promoted at local level.</p>
<p>Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned</p>	
<p>Commitment to further action/new initiatives</p>	<p>The Acordo de Concertação Estratégica (Agreement on Strategic Concertation) 1996-1999 also predicts the objective of Equal Opportunities as an objective to achieve, binding both the Government and the Social Partners.</p>

Other

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN
VII. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform

After 1997 and following a new constitutional disposition (article 109) and in the context of the debate on the revision of the electoral law, the issue of the female participation in the instances of the political life was again raised, and is now a theme of debate of growing importance in Portuguese society.

An expert group at the highest level was requested to study the implications of article 109 and to propose measures aiming at a more effective participation of women in political life, to be integrated in the Electoral Law that was then being prepared.

The conclusion of this study produced many innovative proposals, that have not been adopted, such as the creation of minimum percentages of both sexes in electoral lists with equivalent reflection on the election results (starting with 25%), requiring a balanced distribution of women and men as candidates the adoption of progressive targets in these minimum percentages; the rejection of the lists that don't respect this prerequisites; the penalization of the parties that don't fulfil the minimum percentage; a stimulation prize for parties that go over the 33.3%, beside all the other measures of a general character, namely regarding the organisation of the works of Parliament, so that it is possible to reconcile professional and family responsibilities.

Some of these measures were included in the Proposal of Electoral Law of the Government, namely the ones that proposed minimum percentages of both sexes for the lists, with equivalent reflection in electoral results.

In January 1999 the Parliamentary Commission for Parity, Equality of Opportunities and Family promoted a public hearing on this matter, on which relevant bodies, institutions and personalities were heard. Party leaders were also heard and made a commitment to increase the number of women candidates in the forth coming elections.

In the context of this debate several institutions of civil society, namely women's organisations, also promoted initiatives for information and sensitisation of the public opinion and the media strongly conveyed the different opinions on the matter.

Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

The Proposal of Electoral Law of the Government mentioned above was not approved by Parliament. The Government, however, announced its intention to present an independent Law Proposal, aiming at the approval of more equal criteria according to the requirements of the constitutional

	provision for the promotion of Equality under article 109. This new proposal, recently discussed, was not adopted by Parliament.
Commitment to further action/new initiatives	
Other	

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN VIII. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN	
Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform	<p>In 1995, the Parliamentary Commission for Parity, Equal Opportunities and the Family was created, having at its main task the supervision of all legislation from the point of view of the interests of equality and of the family.</p> <p>Decree Law number 3-B/96, of January 26th 1996 created the High Commissioner for Equality and the Family, the mandate of whom has been mentioned above.</p> <p>Regional Legislative Decree number 18/97/A, of November the 4th (in the Autonomous Region of the Azores), created the Comissão Consultiva Regional para a Defesa dos Direitos das Mulheres (Regional Consultative Commission for the Defence of the Rights of Women).</p> <p>Although created before 1995, the already existing national mechanisms - Commission for Equality and Women's Rights and Commission for Equality in Work and Employment - are also responsible for the implementation of the P.F.A.; the first concerning global policies and the second a sectorial aspect.</p>
Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	
Commitment to further action/new initiatives	
Other	

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN IX. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN	
Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform	<p>As referred above, the principle of equality is a fundamental principle of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic of 1976.</p> <p>Revisions of the Constitution reinforced some aspects of this principle, and the most recent ones, from the revision of 1997, should be particularly mentioned.</p> <p>As a matter of fact the consideration of the promotion of equality as a fundamental task of the State (article 9) and the inclusion of the right to legal protection against all</p>

forms of discrimination in the rights, liberties and personal warranties (article 26), as well as the already existing article 13 (equality principle) constitutes a positive framework for the effective pursuit of policies aiming at equality of both sexes.

As mentioned in Part I, the philosophy inspiring the equality policy is based on the view of equality as a basic right and of women's rights as fundamental rights.

Following social and political changes resulting from the democratic revolution of 1974 and the subsequent changes in the status of women, it was possible for Portugal to ratify CEDAW without reservations in 1980.

After the Beijing Conference and coinciding with a New Government assuming its functions in the end of 1995, one might say that there was a more favourable political outlook on the question of equality and women's rights. **The Program of Government** includes the need for specific policies for the equality of opportunities, with special incidence in the employment area and in professional training and also stressing a particular concern with new ways of reconciling professional activities with family responsibilities. Concerning the area of political action, the same program also states that a more egalitarian society must be built, based on a greater parity between sexes and a new sharing of power at all levels, political, economical and social. As mentioned above this led to the adoption of a Global Plan for Equality in 1997.

Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	
Commitment to further action/new initiatives	
Other	

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN X. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA	
Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform	<p>The Commission for Equality and the Women's Rights has presented numerous participations, denouncing advertisements that attempt against the dignity of women and that contain discrimination on the grounds of sex.</p> <p>As regards the participation of women in the media, a growing percentage of women journalists is to be pointed out. Between 1987 and 1997 it increased from 20% to 33%.</p>
Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	The procedures against sexist and discriminatory advertising are very slow and the fines are not dissuasive; therefore there is still a significant number of discriminatory advertisements.
Commitment to further action/new initiatives	The government intends to make a law on the advertising of hot lines.
Other	

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN XI. WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform	The Minister of Environment is a woman and at present efforts are being made to include the dimension of equal opportunities in training courses.
Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	
Commitment to further action/new initiatives	
Other	

CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN
XII. THE GIRL CHILD

<p>Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Platform</p>	<p>The Global Plan for the Equality of Opportunities foresees under Objective 5 (<i>Social protection of the family and of maternity</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect adolescent mothers in the sphere of assistance in health and the promotion of education, with the view of not excluding them from the school system. <p>In 1998, a phone line for sexual education and family planning counseling (to young people) was created.</p>
<p>Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned</p>	
<p>Commitment to further action/new initiatives</p>	
<p>Other</p>	

ANNEX II

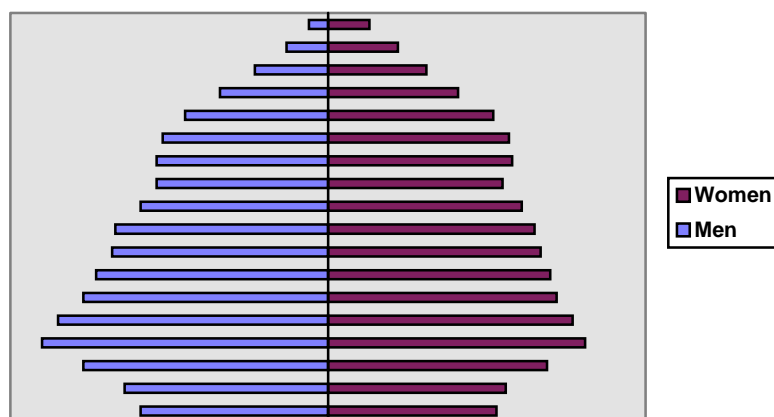
Population and fertility, and Mortality

Inhabitants in thousands:

Years	Total	Men	Women
1970	8 663,3	4 109,4	4 553,9
1981	9 833,0	4 737,7	5 095,3
1991	9 862,7	4 754,7	5 107,9

Source: Censos da População.

The breakdown of the Portuguese population by age group in 1991:



Source: Censo da População, 1991.

Some demographic indicators:

	1980	1985	1990	1996
Crude Birth Rate (%)	16.0	12.8	11.8	11.1
Crude Death Rate (%)	9.6	9.6	10.4	10.8
Infant Mortality Rate (%)	24.3	17.8	10.9	6.9
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100 000 births)	19.6	10.7	10.3	5.4
Nupciality Rate (%)	7.3	6.7	7.3	6.4
Divorce Rate (%)	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.3
Life expectancy at birth (years)- Women	76.7	76.7	78.2	78.57
- Men	69.1	69.7	71.2	71.27
Live births	158 352	130 492	116 383	110 363
Marriages	72 164	68 461	71 654	63 672
Divorces	5 874	8 988	9 216	13 429
Legal separations	70	160	183	345

Source: Estatísticas Demográficas, INE; Direcção-Geral da Saúde.

Health

- Access to health services is universal.

Reproductive health

- Contraceptive prevalence rate - 79% (1994) (no data after 1995)
- Contraceptive methods used (1997):
 - Hormonal oral - 62.3%
 - IUD - 9.7%
 - Hormonal injection - 0.5%
 - Condom - 14.6%
 - Spermicides - 2.1%
 - Natural - 3.1%
 - Withdrawal - 7.1%
 - Others - 0.5%
- % of births attended by trained health personnel - 99% (1997)
- HIV adult prevalence rate - The incidence of clinically diagnosed AIDS cases in 1997 was 8.25 per 100 000 population
- HIV prevalence in 15-24 year old pregnant women - 12.5% of notified cases (5588) belong to this age group (1998). Cases notification is not compulsive.

Gender equality in education

Percentage of female pupils who are enrolled in the different educational levels:

Educational level	% of women
Nursery schooling	47.4
Basic schooling	48.4
1st cycle	47.8
2nd cycle	44.6
3rd cycle	49.5
Secondary Schooling	52.2
Higher Education	56.4

Source: Estatísticas da Educação 95, Ministério da Educação, Departamento de Avaliação, Prospectiva e Planeamento.

The educational level of the Portuguese population, aged 15-24:

Educational level	Men		Women	
	Thousands	%	Thousands	%
None	20.3	2.7	12.8	1.8
Basic schooling-1st cycle	56.9	7.5	43.3	6.0
Basic schooling-2nd cycle	224.5	29.7	161.5	22.4
Basic schooling -3rd cycle	264.7	35.0	249.2	34.6
Secondary	174.4	23.0	224.4	31.1
Medium-level courses	5.1	0.7	11.6	1.6
Higher education	10.5	1.4	17.9	2.5
Post-graduate	0.2	...	0.2	...
Total	756.6	100.0	720.9	100.0

Source: Inquérito ao Emprego, INE, 1997.

Economic activity (1998)

(The autonomous regions of the Azores and of Madeira are not included in these statistics):

Economic activity indicators	%
Unemployment rate	5.0
Professional Status:	
Working for others	71.32
Self-employed and not employing others	19.43
Self-employed and employing others	6.24
Working for the Family or as active member of a cooperative	3.01
Sectors of Activity:	
Primary	13.4
Secondary	36.1
Tertiary	50.5

Source: Departamento de Prospectiva e Planeamento, MEPAT.

Economy (1997)

(The autonomous regions of the Azores and of Madeira are not included in these statistics):

Economic indicators	
GNP*	17 818.8

GNP per capita**	1792
GDP per capita**	1800

* PTE 1 000 000 000

** PTE 1 000

Source: Departamento de Prospectiva e Planeamento, MEPAT.

Income and poverty

According to the results of a study carried out by the Department of Statistics of the Ministry for Qualification and Employment, in March and April 1995, 18,3% of the Portuguese families were poor.

Education

The educational level of the Portuguese population, aged 15 or over (in percentage):

Educational level	Men	Women	Total	(%) of women
None	12.9	24.5	19.0	68.1
Basic schooling-1st cycle	36.4	32.2	34.1	49.7
Basic schooling - 2nd cycle	15.6	11.0	13.2	44.0
Basic schooling - 3rd cycle	16.4	13.1	14.7	47.3
Secondary	11.3	10.7	11.0	51.3
Medium-level courses	1.7	3.4	2.6	68.8
Higher education	5.1	4.7	4.9	50.9
Post-graduate	0.6	0.4	0.5	39.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	52.8

Source: Inquérito ao Emprego, INE, 1997.

Rates of progression/completion in the final year of each educational cycle, by sex (%) (NB. The autonomous regions of the Azores and of Madeira are not included in these statistics):

Year	Women	Men
4th	87.4	82.9
6th	91.5	85.7
9th	88.0	84.7
12th- educational option	64.1	55.5
12th-technical-professional option	57.5	50.5

Source: Estatísticas da Educação 95, Ministério da Educação, Departamento de Avaliação,

Prospectiva e Planeamento.

Human security and social justice

- The number of victims of crimes against persons was (in 1997) 11 382 (7 811 men and 3 571 women), which corresponds to 1,1 per 1 000 people.
- The number of persons in prison was (in 1997) 14 361 (12 901 men and 1 460 women), which corresponds to 145 per 100 000 people.

Housing and environment (1997)

(The autonomous regions of the Azores and of Madeira are not included in these statistics):

Housing and environment indicators	
% population with access to adequate sanitation	89.5
% population with access to safe drinking water	97.6
% population with access to electricity	99.3
Arable land per capita a) b)	0.381

a) Hectares

b) 1995

Source: Departamento de Prospectiva e Planeamento, MEPAT

Additional information disaggregated by sex can be seen in Annex *Portugal Status of Women*.